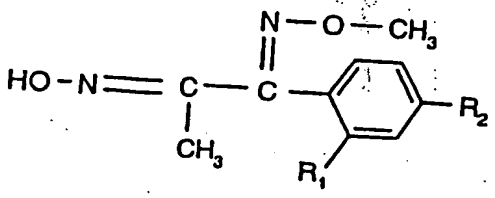
What is claimed is:

1. A process for preparing the oximes of formula II



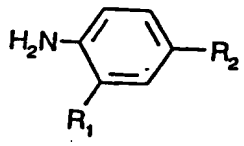
(II)

wherein

R_1 is hydrogen, fluoro or chloro, and

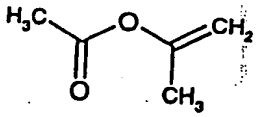
R_2 is methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, cyano, fluoro, chloro or bromo,

which process comprises diazotizing an aniline of formula VI



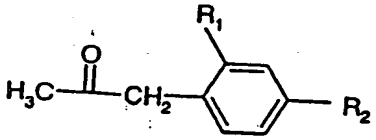
(VI)

reacting the resulting diazonium salt with isopropenylacetate of formula X



(X)

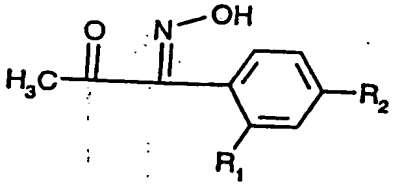
and reacting the resulting ketone of formula XI



(XI)

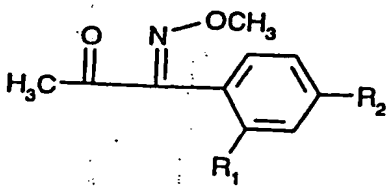
with an organic nitrite in the presence of hydrogene chloride, and

and methylating the resulting ketooxime of formula VIII



(VIII)

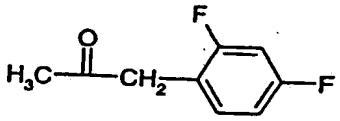
with an methylating agent and reacting the resulting O-methyl ketooxime of formula IX



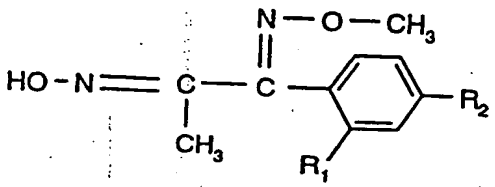
(IX)

with hydroxylamine.

2. The compound 2,4-difluorophenylacetone



3. A process for preparing the oximes of formula II



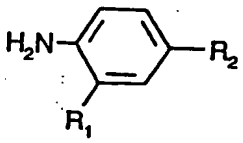
(II)

wherein

R_1 is hydrogen, fluoro or chloro, and

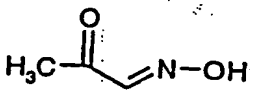
R_2 is methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, cyano, fluoro, chloro or bromo,

which process comprises diazotizing an aniline of formula VI



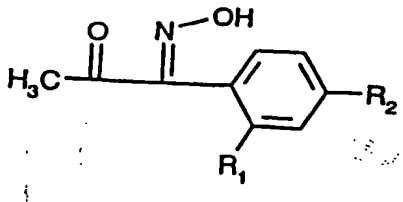
(VI)

and reacting the resulting diazonium salt with methylglyoxal-1-oxime of formula VII



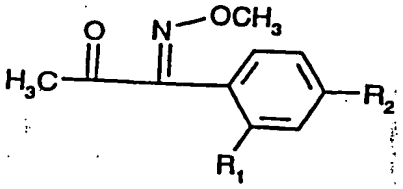
(VII)

and methylating the resulting ketooxime of formula VIII



(VIII)

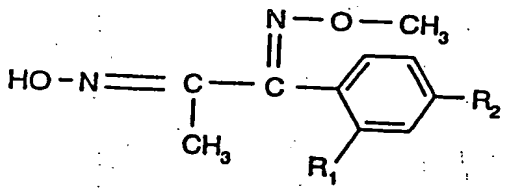
with an methylating agent and reacting the resulting O-methyl ketooxime of formula IX



(IX)

with hydroxylamine.

4. A process for preparing the oximes of formula II



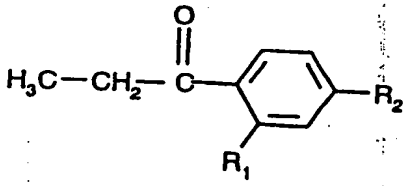
(II)

wherein

R_1 is hydrogen, fluoro or chloro, and

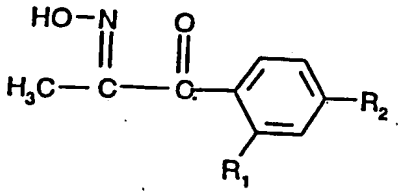
R_2 is methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, cyano, fluoro, chloro or bromo,

which process comprises reacting a propiophenone of formula IV



(IV)

wherein R_1 and R_2 are as defined for formula II in the presence of hydrochloric acid with an organic nitrite such as pentylnitrite, and converting the resulting ketooxime of formula V

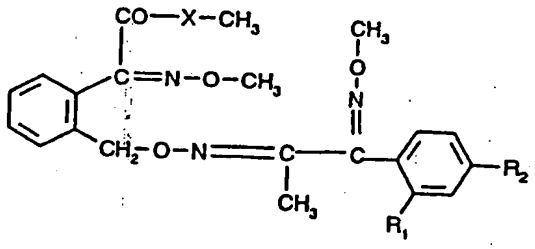


(V)

wherein R_1 and R_2 are as defined for formula II, into the compound of formula II by reacting it with an aqueous solution of O-methyl-hydroxylamine-hydrochloride, and subsequent isomerisation of the racemate of compound II into predominantly the E-form thereof.

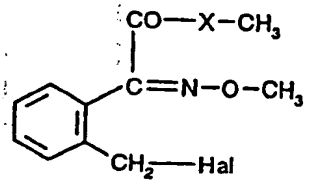
5. A compound of formula II obtained by the process of any one of claims 1, 3 or 4.

6. Use of the compounds of formula II according to claim 5 for preparing fungicidal strobilurins of formula I



(I)

wherein R_1 and R_2 are as defined for formula II in claim 1 and X is NH or oxygen wherein the compound of formula II in a conventional etherification step is in the presence of a base with the coupled with a compound of formula III



(III)

wherein X is as defined for formula I and Hal is halogen, preferably chlorine or bromine.